

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-25

EB-11 DRC-01 /067 W

----- 091114

R 280815Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5664

INFO DIA WASHDC (AA8)

DAO/PRETORIA SOUTH AFRICA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1351

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MA US FR

SUBJ: DAO AIRCRAFT

REF: TANANARIVE 1282(NOTAL)

PRETORIA PASS LTCOL LUTHER

1. EMBASSY LEARNED SEPT 27 FROM DATT/TANA, PRESENTLY IN PRETORIA FOR DAO AIRCRAFT INSPECTION, THAT FRENCH ADVISOR TO MALAGASY AIR FORCE HAD INFORMED HIM JUST PRIOR DEPARTURE IVATO FOR PRETORIA 24 SEPT THAT FRENCH ADVISOR IS LOOKING FOR TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT FOR FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

2. AS RESULT ABOVE INFO, DCM CALLED ON MOFA DIRECTOR BILATWDN RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY AFTERNOON 27 SEP. SAID ON BASIS FONMIN RAT-SIRAKA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB AND ASSTSECTY NEWSOM, IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING USDAO AIRCRAFT BEING REQUESTED LEAVE MADAGASCAR LARGELY BECAUSE GOMR COULD NOT JUSTIFY LETING AMEMBASSY HAVE AIRCRAFT WHEN WERE PLANNING REFUSE SUCH PRIVILEGE TO FRENCH EMBASSY. THEN EXPLAINED WE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE FRENCH EMBASSY IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS ACQUIRE AIRCRAFT FOR FRENCH AMB. INQUIRED WHETHER GOMR HAD APPROVED SUCH ACQUISITION.

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3. RATSIMANDRESY SMILINGLY COMMENTED EMBASSY INTELLIGENCE USUALLY

MUCH BETTER THAN GOMR'S, BUT IN THIS CASE HE KNEW PERSONALLY FRENCH ONLY BEING PERMITTED RETAIN C-47 UNTIL OCT 25. THAT DATE CHOSEN BECAUSE WE HAVE TOLD MOFA USDAO AIRCRAFT WOULD LEAVE MADAGASCAR PERMANENTLY BY OCT 23. HE CONFIRMED GOMR HAD RECEIVED REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FRENCH EMBASSY AIRCRAFT BUT SAID DIP NOTE HAD DEFINITELY BEEN SENT "LAST WEEK" TURNING IT DOWN.

4. WE BELIEVE FRENCH ADVISOR TO MALAGASY AIR FORCE WAS PROBABLY CORRECT IN STATING FRENCH EMBASSY WAS LOOKING FOR AIRCRAFT BUT NOT INFORMED OF VERY RECENT OFFICIAL GOMR DECISION TO DENY REQUEST. RATSIMANDRESY'S ASSURANCES THAT DIP NOTE SENT LAST WEEK TO FRENCH EMBASSY FITS IN WITH AND PROBABLY WAS SENT FOLLOWING CONVERSATION BETWEEN FONMIN'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND DCM REPORTED REFTEL. DO NOT, THEREFORE, SEE REASONABLE CHANCE OF REVERSING GOMR DECISION REF OUR AIRCRAFT.
MENDENHALL

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